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**BARTENDER
OF THE WEEK**

Alia





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SAVAGE LOVE
CROSSWORD

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PHOTO BY
LUCY HAWTHORNE
Thanks to Canteen 3255 for the coffee and food, Cliché for the sunglasses, and the Foundry Home Goods for the notebook.

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THE SHORTLIST



Two sides face off at
Planned Parenthood
citypages.com/slideshows

SUSAN DU

STAT SHEET

10

Number of minutes it took for Metallica to sell out their August 20 show at U.S. Bank Stadium.

\$9,999

Asking price on StubHub for a general admission floor seat to the show.

50

Percentage of St. Paul teachers who earn \$75,000 or more, making them the highest paid in the state.

15

Percentage of the rest of Minnesota's teachers who make \$75,000 or more.

**"We already have *Big Brother* in Minnesota.
It's called 'Winter with Roommates.'"**

Reader Craig Rhode, responding to "Big Brother casting call coming to Minneapolis," at citypages.com

DEADBEATS

BEING A MINNESOTA FARMER means never having to say you're sorry. Or pay for the damage you cause to others.

Taxpayers already spend an estimated \$125 million a year cleaning up water pollution caused by agriculture. Thanks to the Minnesota legislature, we're now also on the hook to cover compensation for farmers who kill off their neighbors' bee hives.

Scandia organic farmer Pam Arnold was the first to collect after her bees were poisoned by the insecticide a neighbor used on his corn. Apparently making the assailant pay would have been taking the notion of personal responsibility a bit too far.

CONSERVATISM

PITY KEITH DOWNEY. The chairman of the Minnesota Republican Party showed up at the Capitol for "Muslim Day," hoping to make nice with people his colleagues view as the end-all, be-all of contemporary villainy.

Unfortunately, much of the GOP tends to find this kind of outreach worse than out-of-wedlock bestiality. Take the Westonka Blog, a right-of-Mussolini site from Mound.

It called Downey's show of kindness "irresponsible, reckless and intentionally negligent." Downey himself was labeled an "incompetent, politically correct jackass" and an "ignorant buffoon."

VENGEANCE IS GOP

To harm Planned Parenthood, Republicans are willing to savage women's healthcare

A new bill being pushed by 37 Republicans in the Minnesota Legislature would strangle funding for preventative women's healthcare — stuff like breast exams, pap smears, and the pill.

Their real goal, of course, is to damage Planned Parenthood. And if that means making basic healthcare a whole lot worse, so be it.

Currently, Planned Parenthood is the only clinic to receive direct federal family planning funding, known as Title X. The clinic uses the money to serve low-income and uninsured people at 15 of its Minnesota clinics. It also sends money to 22 rural clinics across the state.

Some 45,000 patients use these clinics supported by Title X. And it composes the sole source of medical funding for about 23,000 women statewide. By fed-

eral law, none of this money can be used for abortions.

But Republicans want that money sent to the Minnesota Department of Health instead. Their bill would then ban the agency from transferring the money to anyone who provides abortions.

The change is designed to purely damage Planned Parenthood. Though the move wouldn't actually prevent a single abortion, it would likely prevent 23,000 women from receiving medical care.

"The funny thing is, the funding they're targeting isn't ever used for abortion," says Jen Aulwes, Planned Parenthood Minnesota's spokeswoman. "This funding is required by law only to be used for STD testing, birth control mainly, preventative health screenings, things like that. That's the irony of this. They're trying to take away funding for abortion providers

that is actually used for preventative healthcare."

Moreover, the purpose of Title X is to actually reduce abortions by preventing unwanted pregnancies.

Yet targeting Planned Parenthood through Title X has become the conservative rage across the nation ever since a fraudulent video sting against the abortion giant last summer. The video has long since been discredited, but that hasn't stopped Republicans in Minnesota and more than 15 other states from pretending it's legit.

"What they're trying to do is make it so that people who rely on Title X funding for contraceptives and can't afford them otherwise won't be able to get them at Planned Parenthood," Aulwes says. "They'd have to go somewhere else, but there's no way that the community health centers



The bill would wipe out health care for 23,000 Minnesota women.

SUSAN DU

and other folks out there can absorb the patient load that Planned Parenthood services with that funding."

The idea that non-abortion clinics could take in Planned Parenthood's patients has been called "ludicrous" by the American Public Health Association. —SUSAN DU

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'The First 48' & the First Amendment

Is reality TV the same as journalism?

Robert Barrere does not look like a cop. Thin and boyish, with premature salt-and-pepper hair and black-rimmed glasses, he seems likelier to be holding court in a public radio studio.

This unimposing visage is why it's so interesting to watch the soft-spoken Barrere confront Thayon Samson, a barber, exotic dancer, and suspected murderer.

In a scene from *The First 48*, Barrere, a detective with the New Orleans police, calmly explains that he knows Samson tried to destroy evidence by setting fire to a car with a woman's corpse in the trunk.

The fire didn't catch. DNA from gym shorts in the backseat matched Samson's. He was arrested for murder.

The First 48 makes for good television. But is it journalism?

That's the question judges in Minneapolis will have to answer. At least a dozen felony cases with upcoming court dates were the subjects of the A&E show, which tagged along with Minneapolis police as they investigated their most serious cases. Now lawyers on both sides want access to all the video shot.

But police can't grant their request, according to Minneapolis City Attorney Susan Segal. They don't have the footage. *First 48* does.

The prosecutions at stake are as big as they get. In one, the victim of a robbery took revenge, knocking his assailant flat with one punch. In response, say police, the thief's friend, Brandon Broszko, pulled

a gun from his pants and sprayed a crowd with bullets, killing the puncher.

In another, suspected gangbanger Antonio Jenkins — street name: Popeye — is accused of rolling up on a rival gang and shooting two dead.

Defense lawyers want access to the video to scour it for shoddy police work. Hennepin County prosecutor Mike Freeman feels obliged to supply it. By law, he must provide defense lawyers with "all potentially exculpatory evidence" that could help their clients.

Freeman's also trying to preempt the possibility of a costly retrial. If a suspect is convicted before the show airs, and that episode reveals new information that invalidates the initial case, he'd have to do the whole thing over again.

"To do something, and then have it overturned on appeal, doesn't make much sense," Freeman says. "It wastes our time and energy."

Or worse. In Miami, where the show filmed hundreds of cases over 13 years, a judge dropped key evidence in a domestic violence murder trial after a detective admitted he'd felt compelled to "play act" for the show.

Another case saw a man wrongfully arrested and imprisoned for 20 months. He sued, claiming the presence of TV cameras pressured cops into making a bust. A jury awarded him \$850,000.

Freeman is confident Minneapolis police wouldn't step astray just to become TV stars. But he can't be sure unless he sees

the tapes.

First 48 says no. It cites Minnesota's "shield law," which protects journalists from releasing anything they uncovered during the course of reporting. And that will leave judges to decide if reality TV is the same as journalism.

The argument lands in a "gray area," according to Steve Aggergaard, a First Amendment lawyer and former reporter. On one hand, shows like this have, for better or worse, come to take the place of the nightly news, whose dwindling viewership is largely left to the aged and gray.

"The three major [television] networks are functionally dead," Aggergaard says. "Increasingly, shows like *First 48* are how people are getting information on what police are up to."

But whether this show is an independent news-gatherer, a key point in shield law cases, is up for debate. The city's contract with *The First 48* says it must submit episodes to police for advanced screening, accepting feedback before it airs. Few serious journalism outfits would make such a deal.

The show is also motivated to put cops in their best light. If it didn't, departments would be reluctant to allow filming again.

Minneapolis police extended their contract for another year, then backed out when the controversy bubbled. If Chief Janee Harteau regrets her decision, she's not saying.

She can't. Another term of the contract bars her from discussing the show without



Mike Mullen

the producers' consent.

The TV show, owned by Britain's ITV network, is also keeping mum. Its attorney, local First Amendment ace John Borger, says the show will do its talking in court.

It's sensible, even admirable, for the notoriously secretive Minneapolis Police Department to pull back the curtain on how they work, especially today, when cops are so easily vilified. The show puts a sympathetic and human face on people we so readily lump together as "the cops."


The department rarely grants the same access to Twin Cities reporters.

In the meantime, these 12 cases look like a new test of Minnesota's shield law, generally considered one of the strongest, most press-friendly in the country. The judges' decisions will set a precedent on whether the reality shows that have come to dominate our airwaves are news or not.

The big questions at play are not lost on Mike Freeman.

"Interesting case, isn't it?" he says.

It is. It's dramatic. It's important. It's complex. And it's hard to imagine how this plot ends.

Stay tuned. 

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Follow Mike on Twitter: @mikemullen_

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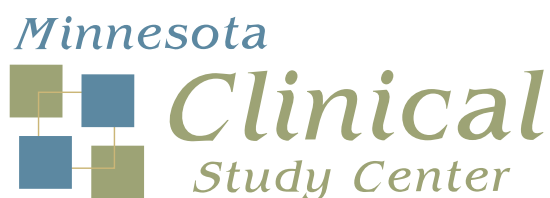
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A poster for the event "Misbehavin' at the Met". The poster has a black background with a white wavy pattern. It features a stylized illustration of a woman in a 1930s cabaret dress. The text is in a mix of bold, serif, and sans-serif fonts. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2016, at 6 PM. The location is the Metropolitan Ballroom & Clubroom at 5418 Wayzata Boulevard in Golden Valley. Tickets can be purchased through March 30 at 612-333-6669 or on the website MNOPERA.ORG/CABARET. The poster also mentions that 1930's attire is admired but not required, and lists the Minnesota Opera and tempo as sponsors, with CityPages.com as the media sponsor.

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10 HIDDEN-GEM COFFEE SHOPS



PHOTOS BY
LUCY HAWTHORNE



The Twin Cities caffeine vendors
quietly fueling our lives

BY STACY BROOKS

Your neighborhood coffee shop: the place where a cappuccino and the gentle hum of background noise provide a moment of blissful escape, the serenity that some people find in organized religion or long hikes. It might be your first stop on Wednesday mornings, when a triple espresso supplies the three ounces of motivation necessary to endure another round of pointless meetings. Maybe it's where you meet up with that cute guy from the gym to flirt over soy lattes and split a blueberry muffin. Coffee shops are urban oases, refuges from the hectic demands of your crazy boss and your never-ending to-do list. A double mocha won't fix your problems, but at least they'll seem a little smaller with each sip.

You probably already have a favorite coffee shop, the spot where you stumble in bleary eyed and the barista starts fixing your usual before you have time to order it. But once in a while, it's nice to break out of the daily grind. Need inspiration? Venture to one of these Twin Cities hidden gems the next time you're in need of solace and caffeine:

CANTEEN 3255

3255 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis
canteen3255.com

Canteen is a Zen garden of a coffee shop, soothing and minimalist. The atmosphere is hushed, the rustle of newspaper pages and the restrained clacking of a dozen laptop keyboards punctuated by an occasional whir from the espresso machine. This is a spot to meditatively admire the foam art on your latte; a rowdy recap of last night's festivities will earn you passive-aggressive glares.

Fittingly, drinks are a study in elegant simplicity, relying on Dogwood espresso and craftsmanship instead of dozens of garishly flavored syrups and gobs of whipped cream. The curated menu focuses on the details: the vanilla syrup and caramel that grace the lattes are house-made, and the miel — an espresso drink flavored with honey and cinnamon — is served with a diminutive chocolate cookie.

Whatever your stance on artisanal toast, you have to admit that Canteen has nailed it: hefty slices of toasted Rustica bread are spread with toppings like local butter or house-made vanilla cashew butter. The best deal is the weekend self-serve toast happy hour, when you can layer on the nut butters, jams, honey, and Feta to your heart's content.

FIREROAST CAFÉ

3800 37th Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-724-9895
fireroastcafe.com

Situated on a quiet corner in Longfellow, Fireroast Café is a warm, sunny space with comfortable booths and fabulous scones. Granted, many coffee shops have scones, but they dream of becoming the ones at Fireroast Café when they grow up. Crumbly and studded with oats, they're baked daily in wholesome-tasting flavors like maple pecan and rosemary apricot. A rotating selection of house-made muffins, cookies, and coconut macaroons rounds out the bakery case. The lunch menu has a south-of-the-border twist, with burritos and quesadillas — try the mushroom manchego quesadilla, served with a delicious house-made heirloom tomato salsa.

Of course, there's also coffee: fair-trade, organic, and sourced from local UP Roasters. Options include standard drip, pourover, and expertly crafted espresso drinks. Although not the café's primary focus, there's a nice selection of loose-leaf teas, and the barista will loan you a little hourglass timer so that you can steep the perfect cup. The hot chocolate shows the same thoughtful touch, made with Ghirardelli chocolate and garnished with enough marshmallows and sprinkles to delight your inner child.

PRECISION GRIND

2223 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis
612-343-4255
precisiongrindcoffee.com

Precision Grind is the place for days when you don't want to change out of your yoga pants to meet your friends for coffee. It's a chill space in Seward with Chipotle-style industrial decor, Christ-



Sovereign
Grounds



mas lights and Chinese lanterns strung across the front window, and a diverse clientele ranging from creatives toting sketchbooks to business types with laptops. Seating is ample, with plenty of room to find a quiet table if you need to get some work done.

There are three daily coffees — dark, light, and decaf — and the standard lineup of espresso drinks. The Mexican mocha, flavored with allspice and cayenne, is a spicy pick-me-up. The cold press packs a smooth caffeine punch, and in the summer, there's a refreshing vanilla version. In addition to scones and muffins, the bakery case features something that all too many coffee shops neglect: fresh doughnuts. Sourced from St. Paul's SugaRush, the assortment includes classic apple fritters, bismarks, glazed old-fashioned, and cake doughnuts with plenty of sprinkles. The doughnuts aren't fancy, but they're straight-up satisfying — exactly like the surroundings.

SOVEREIGN GROUNDS

813 E. 48th St., Minneapolis
612-825-6157
sovereigngrounds.com

Having a child in tow shouldn't keep you from a good cup of coffee, so wheel that stroller over to Sovereign Grounds. While the little one runs amok in the toy-filled playroom, sip a much-deserved cup of the signature Turkish Roast. The smooth, robust blend is roasted in-house, as are the shop's dozen other coffee roasts and blends. For tea drinkers, the soothing red tea latte is a unique option, with a subtly earthy flavor.

Lunch options have a Mediterranean bent, from spinach and gyro pies to an orzo pasta salad, as well as an assortment of American-style soups and sandwiches. A homey array of baked goods takes up the rest of the deli case: thick slices of pineapple coconut bread, lemon poppy seed muffins, wedges of apple cake, and

seven layer bars. The lightly sweetened banana bread, served in cake-like squares and topped with chocolate chips, makes for a perfect afternoon snack.

One caveat: Unless shrieking children and a hide-and-seek game underneath your table increase your productivity, leave the laptop at home. But if you don't mind some noise and the occasional toddler, the shabby-chic atmosphere in the shop's main room makes for a pleasant adult hangout.

CAFÉ PATTEEN

920 Second Ave. S., Minneapolis
612-371-0262
facebook.com/cafepatteen

In a skyway awash with Starbucks and Caribou Coffee outlets, Café Patteen is a spunky, independent alternative. Its coffee beans are locally roasted, teas are loose-leaf, and cookies are made from scratch with the jewel-toned KitchenAid mixers behind the counter. Located in the International Centre, the tiny shop has a few high-top tables but mostly caters to the grab-and-go business crowd.

The cayenne-spiked spicy mocha is the perfect antidote for drowsy mornings. You could also opt for the German chocolate mocha's rich blend of chocolate and coconut if you have a sweet tooth. Note that the shop is cash-only, but the reasonable prices won't lighten your wallet too much — especially if you visit between 2:30 and 3, when coffee and espresso are half off.

Besides cookies and scones — be sure to try the chocolate cherry cookie if it's available — you can get a fluffy slice of quiche or choose from an ever-changing selection of seasonal cakes and bars. There are even grilled Kramarczuk's brats at lunchtime. Good luck finding that at Starbucks.



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CAHOOTS COFFEE BAR

1562 Selby Ave., St. Paul
651-644-6778
cahootscoffee.wordpress.com

Cahoots Coffee Bar is a sprawling Middle Eastern-style coffee house that feels like a cozy bazaar, with rugs hanging from the walls and a jumble of silk scarves, soaps, and pottery for sale. The mismatched chairs give the shop a comfortable, lived-in feel, and owner Saed and his friendly staff make you feel like you're at home — only with better coffee. There's never any rush to move along, thanks to a tucked-away patio and an expansive back room that provide plenty of space to settle in.

One of the shop's many specialties is Turkish coffee, seasoned with a house blend of spices. It's strong but smooth, meant to be savored rather than gulped. There's also a lovely mocha made with lavender-infused white chocolate, lavender lemonade during the warmer months, and an extensive selection of loose-leaf teas. But the signature beverage is the award-winning Moroccan mocha, flavored with a heavy dose of cardamom and cinnamon and a subtle hint of chocolate. Pair it with a plate of baba ganoush or hummus, and your coffee break will



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1518 Randolph Ave., St. Paul
651-699-7788
jsbeanfactory.com

The best thing about J&S Bean Factory isn't on the menu — it's the rich smell of coffee beans wafting from the

small-batch roaster in the back room. You could order a latte or cappuccino, but when it's roasted 20 feet away, your best bet is a cup of black coffee. Dark, medium, and decaf options are offered each day. If it's available, opt for the staff favorite, the medium-roast Ethiopian Yirgacheffe. The top customer pick is Steve's Smokey Double Dark, which is also available in decaf. A small cup of coffee might be the Twin

Cities' best bargain, ringing up at only \$1.49. Even better? Refills are a mere 46 cents.

In warm weather, there's plenty of seating on the dog-friendly patio. Otherwise, the bright, bustling shop makes for a nice place to chat or get some work done, especially if you fortify yourself with a giant molasses cookie. Savory food offerings include La Loma Tamales Friday through Sunday and fresh sandwiches from La Patisserie daily. Grab some beans for home on your way out — over 30 varieties are available for purchase, many of them organic and free trade.

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945 W. Seventh St., St. Paul
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facebook.com/BurnUnitCoffeeWard

Burn Unit Coffee Ward is tucked into a narrow storefront on a quiet stretch of West Seventh Street, a quirky space with pinup girls gracing the menu board, lime green walls, and an eclectic shuffle of background music ranging from rap to big band. Although it's branded as an "alternative coffee shop," it's also a neighborhood joint where you might find senior citizens nursing lattes and chatting about their hip

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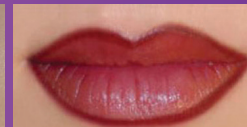
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Claddagh Coffee



cookies, and streusel-topped muffins. On the beverage front, there are espresso drinks, Thai coffee, and kava, a relaxation-inducing tea from the South Pacific. The signature drink is the offbeat but refreshing Dr. Coffee, a mix of coffee and espresso ice cubes, cream, and Dr. Pepper.

Since Burn Unit is a one-woman show — hardworking Christina is the owner, barista, and baker — hours can be slightly sporadic, and sometimes the menu is takeout only. It's a good idea to check the shop's Facebook page for a status update before heading over.

CLADDAGH COFFEE

459 W. Seventh St., St. Paul
651-600-3400
claddaghcoffeecafe.com

Claddagh Coffee feels a bit like a cozy old pub, with rugged brick walls and a convivial vibe. The decor is exuberantly Irish-themed, from the Celtic script menu board to the leprechaun standing guard over the front door. So what if espresso drinks aren't

replacements sitting next to millennials with MacBooks.

The baked goods are the sort of comforting treats your favorite aunt would pull out of the oven whenever you visited: monkey bread, chocolate chip

really all that Irish; when they're this good, who cares? The syrups and chai are house-made, and are featured in an assortment of specialty espresso drinks branded with Irish names. Some are standard — the Dirty Seamus is a dirty chai, and the Black & Tan is a miel — while others are specialties of the house. The Sister Mary Claddagh is an intriguing mix of espresso, blood orange puree, and caramel; the dessert-in-a-mug St. Paddy's combines espresso with dark chocolate and coconut cream.

Whatever you're drinking, don't forget a hefty square of the signature Dublin crumb cake on the side. If you're the in mood for a meal, order a steaming bowl of Irish oats or choose from the lineup of breakfast and lunch paninis. The veggie panini, loaded with hummus, pesto, and cheddar, will tempt even dedicated carnivores, while the Wee Leprechaun — filled with banana and Nutella — is the perfect excuse to eat chocolate for lunch.

THE GOAT COFFEEHOUSE

699 E. Seventh St., St. Paul
651-200-4370
goatcoffeeshouse.com

The Goat Coffeehouse offers some-

thing for everyone, with V60 and Chemex pour-overs for the discerning coffee aficionado and blended Almond Joy mochas for those who need their caffeine doctored with a dose of sugar. Housed in a historic brick building across the street from Metro State, the first floor is a comfy hangout with an upbeat soundtrack, while the more subdued second floor has plenty of room to settle in with your laptop. There's even a playroom for the kids. The atmosphere is refreshingly welcoming, with friendly baristas and a helpful diagram illustrating the difference between a cortado and a macchiato.

Coffee is sourced from St. Paul's True Stone Coffee Roasters, with a unique variety specifically roasted for cold press. The ratio for the cold press is a precise and closely guarded secret, but whatever the magic formula, it's potent and delectably smooth. Bars and cookies are made in-house — try the raspberry-cherry-rhubarb bar, spread thick with fruit-packed jam and topped with a hearty oatmeal crumble. Although the desserts are sized big enough to count as a meal, you should order the zesty turkey craisin pesto sandwich if you're in the mood for a more balanced lunch. **CP**

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BARRED

St. Paul's "40-plus"-only bar:
Bad business? Illegal? Or brilliant?

BY MECCA BOS

When it comes to the bar scene, there are few perks to being over 40. Nightlife seems all but created for the youthful, the nubile, the fresh of liver.

That is, unless, you head over to Louie's Bar on Payne Avenue. There you're not allowed to drink at all unless you're 40 or older.

Sort of.

Bill Lindeke, creator of Twin City Sidewalks Tours, was doing research with a friend for a tour of bars on St. Paul's East Side, when he stopped at Louie's Bar.

Right as they began to take off their coats, they were approached by a bartender who told them: "Before you get too comfortable, you know we're a 40-plus bar. We were 30-plus, but now we're 40-plus."

Lindeke was a bit stunned. He inquired as to whether such a policy is legal. The bartender replied, "This is private property, we can do what we want."

So Lindeke, 36, and his buddy kept their coats on, saw themselves out, and took photos of the policy, clearly posted in the bar's front window. He says he'll just have to wait four years to go back to the bar.

Tony Carlson, general manager of Louie's, has been managing bars for 22 years, three on Payne Avenue, including the notorious, long-gone strip club, the Payne Reliever.

She's been working at Louie's for about a year, and according to her, last summer was nothing but trouble at the bar.

"We had over 350 phone calls to the police — fights, drug-related calls. Yes, people get drunk and do stupid things, but this was above and beyond that." She adds that the owners pay steep fines to the city and have to appeal at city council meetings in order to make penance for all the trouble surrounding the bar.

Regulars were no longer coming in to drink, and Carlson was searching for a way to halt the crime and bring regulars back. She made the decision in October to institute a 30-and-over policy. And for a time, things were calm again. But then this month, "The shit hit the fan again."

"We couldn't control the crowd. We had people sitting around and not purchasing anything. A lot of homeless people, and a lot of drug dealers. The outside of the bar was intimidating with people hanging out."



BILL LINDEKE

LOUIE'S BAR

883 Payne Ave., St. Paul
651-776-2093

hardcore rap and took away the karaoke. But still the trouble remained. So they instituted a 40-and-over policy. And since then, she says, things have been calm again.

"We have new customers. People don't feel like they have to sit with their purses in their laps. People feel comfortable again."

But there's a loophole to the nobody-under-40-rule. Regular customers who the staff knows well have been issued "VIP" cards, and are welcome to use the bar regardless of their age (over 21, of course).

Carlson says she recently issued VIP cards to a group of patrons in their 30s, and all of the bartenders have been told that they can issue VIP cards at their discretion as well.

Asked whether she thought the service policy at Louie's was a legal gray area, she says no.

And, according to at least one law firm we spoke to, Minneapolis-based Nichols Kaster, she may be correct. "The business discrimination law doesn't include age," says attorney David Schlesinger. However, he added, "Discrimination tends to lead to problematic circumstances." If the bar begins discriminating based on gender or nation of origin, for instance, they may find themselves in some legal hot water.

At least for now, Carlson feels like the bar has found a sweet spot. "Not everybody from the East Side is a drug dealer or a thug. There are a lot of good, family-oriented people who need a comfortable place to go."

For his part, Lindeke says he doesn't have any hard feelings toward Louie's.

"I hope Louie's can stay open in a neighborhood where a lot of different people can cross paths." ☞

She says that in an effort to "control the crowd," they took away

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A LIST

FRIDAY Right Here highlights mid-career artists **P. 25**

SATURDAY 30 Days of Biking rides on **P. 25**

MONDAY The films of Charlie Kaufman **P. 27**

WEDNESDAY 3/30

DANCE

MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP

NORTHROP

Mark Morris is a choreographer whose depth of knowledge about classical music enables him to create movement that doesn't so much illustrate as embody the music's form. He starred in his 1989 danced version of *Dido and Aeneas*, Henry Purcell's 17th-century opera about love and betrayal, playing both Dido, queen of Carthage, and the sorceress who undoes her. This time around, Laurel Lynch dances both roles while Morris conducts the orchestra and singers, who will be in the pit. The work has elements of multiculturalism (East versus West), psychodrama (*Dido* and the Sorceress as two sides of the same coin), gothic (witches cavorting in Black Mass rituals), complex sexuality, and classic modern dance. The body-hugging black costumes, stripped staging, starkly abstract forms, and stylized gestures reference choreographer Martha Graham's harsh and splendid heroines and the Greek choruses who attend them. There is also camp of the high and low varieties, elements of Indian classical dance, sign language, and a sailor's hornpipe that gives a glimpse into Morris' beginnings as a folk dancer. \$49-\$74. 7:30 p.m. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-625-6003. —LINDA SHAPIRO

COMEDY

JOE DEROSA

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Unlike many comics who dabble in music, Joe DeRosa isn't interested in making funny songs. Indeed, he started out his show-business career as musician and found comedy by accident. "We were trying to play some songs at the end of a music open mic," he says. "The crowd was drunk, and they weren't listening." DeRosa started berating the audience (he and his friend had downed a few as well), finally getting them to pay attention. "We got off stage and the manager was like, 'You're funny man, you guys should do a comedy show.'" They did. But after a few weeks DeRosa was



Designer Anna Lee teams up with Allegra Lockstadt for hats and illustrations celebrating the Kentucky Derby

COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

on his own, and two years after that he was in New York doing comedy full-time. After writing and appearing on several TV shows, he's now concentrating on rebooting his standup set. "I kind of felt my standup wasn't getting the focus it deserved," he admits. However, while he's out on the road, he'll also be trying to complete his latest musical project, *Demon Riot*. "It's sort of weird dance music," he says. "Kind of a cross between electronica and Captain Beefheart." He hopes to get the album out this year, and also record a standup special. \$15-\$18. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

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For would-be romantics with poetry in their hearts but marbles in their mouths,

Theater Latté Da presents the world debut of *C.*, a fresh adaptation of Edmond Rostrand's classic French play *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Developed as part of Theater Latté Da's NEXT: New Musicals in the Making initiative (intended to promote original musicals in the Twin Cities), *C.* couldn't have a more promising creative pedigree. Bradley Greenwald, one of the area's most versatile stage talents, undertook the book and lyrics, going so far as to translate the text from the original French. Playing to Greenwald's skill at melodic cadence, poetry forms the cornerstone in the classic narrative of *Cyrano* (Greenwald), a renaissance man whose many virtues fall short of compensating for his insecurity over his exceptionally large nose. His fear paralyzes him from seeking the heart of his beloved Roxane. Instead, *Cyrano* lends his passionate prose to the cause of another suitor, Christian, who is as abundantly handsome as

he is verbally hapless. Robert Elhai's musical compositions are tunelessly varied, lending amorous atmosphere to the love triangle in this Peter Rothstein-directed premiere. The show is in previews March 30 through April 1. \$29-\$35 previews; \$35-\$45 regular run. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday. 345 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-339-3003. **Through April 24 —BRAD RICHASON**

THURSDAY 3/31

COMEDY

BIG JAY OAKERSON

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Big Jay Oakerson knows what the fans want when they come to see him, and he's happy to oblige. "More filth and dicks and stuff," he reports. "I'm doing a little bit more relationship stuff that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 ►

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AUTHOR SELF PORTRAIT

READING DANIEL CLOWES MAGERS & QUINN BOOKSELLERS

Writer and illustrator Daniel Clowes' appearance in Minneapolis this weekend has a particular relevance — scenes for the film adaptation of his wryly morose, style-bending graphic novel *Wilson* were shot in and around the Twin Cities last summer for release later in 2016. No local tie-in is needed to justify a visit from Clowes,

though, as he's one of the most accomplished comic-book artists of his time. His early career was defined by his anthology series *Eightball*, which melded the disparate surrealism of David Lynch and Zap Comix, and included the original *Ghost World* stories. While many of his '90s alt-comics colleagues have shifted their focus away from the medium — Joe Matt, Bob Fingerman, fellow New Yorker cover artists Adrian Tomine and Seth — Clowes has persevered to create his best work. His latest is the just-released *Patience*, a graphic novel publisher Fantagraphics bills as “a psychedelic science-fiction love story.” Clowes will be joined by local cartoonist Zak Sally. Seating begins at 6 p.m. and is limited, so show up early to lock up a spot. Free. 7 p.m. 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-4611. —BRYAN MILLER

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

sounds dramatic, but at the end of the day it's about explaining to girls why we like anal.” However, he is confident in his broad appeal. “Even if you're a Bible thumper, you'll laugh at my jokes,” he insists. Indeed, when not telling jokes onstage, he co-hosts the podcast *Legion of Skanks* with fellow comics Luis J. Gomez and Dave Smith. They describe it as “the most offensive podcast on Earth,” which suits Oakerson perfectly. If people are put off by his “stand-upset,” he's not worried. “I don't mind trivializing my own work,” he notes. “I'm up there trying to change people's minds, not speaking in front of Congress. I'm just trying to make people laugh.” \$15-\$22. 7:30 p.m. Thursday; 7:30 and 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday; 7 p.m. Sunday. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

PARTY CHIC BREWTIQUE SIP AND SHOP

INSIGHT BREWING

While Orange Julius and Caribou kiosks abound in shopping malls, it's generally not socially acceptable to shop with a beer in your hand. You can do just that, however, at this Thursday's happening at Insight Brewery. During this party, artisans and makers will be

selling their wares as the pints flow freely from taps. Items include funky yoga pants, hand-printed cards, rope and gem jewelry, cozy knitwear, mugs with Minnesota slogans, and darling handmade clutches. Get your Mother's Day gift early, or pick up something fun for yourself. A portion of the proceeds from the evening will benefit the North Side's Hospitality House. Free. 6 to 9 p.m. 2821 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-722-7222. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

BEER/MUSIC SYMPHONY AND SUDS

SOCIABLE CIDER WERKS

Last year, members of the Minnesota Orchestra packed Sociable Cider Werks for a one-off concert. The event was such a hit that they made it a series in 2016. This Thursday, a quintet of horn players will return to perform in front of the stainless steel fermenting tanks, offering an up-close and festive alternative to the dressed-up downtown feel of Orchestra Hall. In addition to this week's gig, future micro-concerts are planned for SurlyBrewing, Fair State Brewing, and Insight Brewing. At each, Minnesota's finest musicians will bring the brass to the people, playing to a standing-room crowd with pints in hand, proving once again that orchestras

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25 ►

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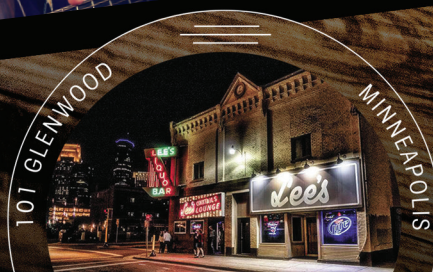


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FRIDAY, APRIL 1 SUNDAY, APRIL 3 TUESDAY, APRIL 5 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 FRIDAY, APRIL 8

SHELLAC
MONO
\$15/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

FIRST AVENUE AND SMA PRESENT
GALACTIC
BOMBINO
\$26/\$28/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
CAROLINE SMITH
HARRIET BROWN
DJ SET BY LIP LAB
(SARAH WHITE AND ALICIA STEELE OF HIATUS)
\$20/8PM/18+

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 —
SATURDAY, APRIL 30

THREE NIGHTS
UMPHREY'S MCGEE
\$32.50/\$35 DAY OF SHOW
\$79.50 (THREE NIGHT PASS)
8PM/18+

SATURDAY, MAY 21

BE SOMEBODY WORLD TOUR
BOYCE AVENUE
\$25/\$26.50/5PM/ALL AGES

MUTEMATH
PAPER ROUTE
\$25/\$27/7PM/18+

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

THE CEDAR PRESENTS
ANI DIFRANCO
CHASTITY BROWN
\$45/7PM/18+

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
ANDREW BIRD
DAWN OF MIDI
\$36/7PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

THE STRUTS
MADE VIOLENT
\$16/\$18/7:30PM/18+

SUNDAY, MAY 22

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
OLD 97'S
HEARTLESS BASTARDS
BJ BARHAM
(OF AMERICAN AQUARIUM)
\$25/7PM/18+

'89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE JOY FORMIDABLE
EVERYTHING EVERYTHING
\$20/7PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

R.T. RYBAK'S
POTHOLE CONFIDENTIAL
BOOK LAUNCH PARTY
FT. BIG TROUBLE + DVRG
\$10/6PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

MOD SUN
BOBBY RAPS
ROCKY DIAMONDS
\$22/6PM/ALL AGES

FRIDAY, MAY 6

GEAR DADDIES
THE WHISKIES
\$25/8PM/18+

TUESDAY, MAY 24

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
YEASAYER
YOUNG MAGIC
\$25/7:30PM/18+

GLORIOUS DEAD PRESENTS
3001: THE TOUR
FLATBUSH ZOMBIES
A\$AP TWELVYY
REMY BANKS
\$20/6PM/ALL AGES

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

89.3 THE CURRENT AND
CITY PAGES PRESENTS
NIGHT MOVES
GRAMMA BOYFRIEND
CARROLL
\$12/\$15/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, APRIL 22 &
SATURDAY, APRIL 23

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
BOB MOULD
THE SUICIDE COMMANDOS
FURY THINGS
\$25/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, MAY 7

TINA AND THE B-SIDES
\$20/8PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE KILLS
L.A. WITCH
\$30/7:30PM/18+

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
HAR MAR SUPERSTAR
SOLID GOLD
BUG FIX
DJ FUNDO
\$20/8PM/18+

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE 40NTH FLOOR
WHITE LIGHT RIOT
ERIK KOSKINEN
\$15/8PM/18+

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

93X AND SURLY BREWING PRESENT
SAVAGE IMPERIAL DEATH
MARCH TOUR FEATURING
NAPALM DEATH
MELVINS
MELT BANANA
\$25/7PM/18+

SATURDAY, MAY 14,

THE BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE
MAGIC CASTLES
\$20/8:00PM/18+

THURSDAY, MAY 26

89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
CHARLES BRADLEY AND HIS EXTRAORDINAIRES
\$20/8PM/18+

FIRST AVENUE & 7th St entry

ALSO COMING TO THE MAINROOM

6/03 OH WONDER w/ LANY 18+
6/07 TYLER, THE CREATOR w/ TACO ALL AGES
6/10 REBEL, REBEL - ROCK FOR PUSSY XII - A TRIBUTE TO DAVID BOWIE w/ ALL STAR BAND LED BY JOHN ELLER, TRANSMISSION'S DJ JAKE RUDH 18+
6/15 CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN 18+
6/21 BUILT TO SPILL 18+
6/23 REVEREND HORTON HEAT w/ UNKNOWN HINSON, KOFFIN KATS, LINCOLN DURHAM 18+
7/12 THE WOMBATS w/ COAST MODERN 18+
7/27 BØRNS w/ LEWIS DEL MAR, BEAU All Ages - SOLD OUT
9/17 THE SPECIALS 18+
10/30 AN EVENING WITH PETER HOOK & THE LIGHT, PERFORMING "SUBSTANCE" - JOY DIVISION & NEW ORDER w/ DJ JAKE RUDH (OF TRANSMISSION) 18+

7TH ST ENTRY

3/30 SKATING POLLY w/ CATBATH, CHERRY COLA, BRUISE VIOLET 18+
3/31 LEIF - RIOT BOI w/ NESS NITE, SLAMDUNKAPHER 18+
4/01 QUILT w/ VAL SON, HALFLOVES 18+
4/02 NAP EYES and CIAN NUGENT w/ RUPERT ANGELEYES 18+
4/03 RESTORATIONS w/ CREEPOID, THE DIRTY NIL 18+
4/04 YUCK w/ BIG THIEF 18+
4/05 SUNFLOWER BEAN w/ WEAVES, BRILLIANT BEAST 18+
4/06 ALEX G and PORCHES w/ YOUR FRIEND 18+
4/07 PRINCE RAMA w/ SASHA CONDA, OAKS 18+
4/08 DENZEL CURRY "2055: THE ULT EXPERIENCE TOUR" w/ JK THE REAPER 18+
4/09 HÆLOS w/ GOOD NIGHT GOLD DUST, PERFUME MONSTER 18+
4/10 MADE OF OAK (NICK SANBORN OF SYLVAN ESSO) w/ CHRISTIAN ROSENAU 18+
4/11 SILVERSEED "ALBUM RELEASE PARTY" w/ COLOR TAB, THE STARFOLK 18+
4/13 AURORA w/ TOR MILLER 18+ - SOLD OUT
4/14 NAZEEM & SPENCER JOLIS "THE ALBUM" RELEASE SHOW w/ ALIBASTER JONES, CRAM, UNKNOWN CREATURE, DJ BVCKWOODS 18+
4/15 THE MN MEAN MOVEMENT w/ KATANA DA DON, ANDRE MARIETTE WITH AYYAH & JENESSA LASOTA, HOUSE OF DANCE BREAKERS, KAOZ, DJ LOS BOOGIE 18+
4/16 STEP ROCKETS w/ GRAVEYARD CLUB, DENNY 18+
4/17 NATHAN KALISH AND THE LASTCALLERS w/ STRINGDINGERS, JILL ZIMMERMAN 18+
4/18 FREDDIE GIBBS "SHADOW OF A DOUBT TOUR" 18+ - SOLD OUT
4/19 MATTHEW LOGAN VASQUEZ (OF DELTA SPIRIT) w/ REVEREND BARON 18+
4/20 BIG WILD 18+
4/21 COMMUNION: TWIN CITIES ft. JAKUBI, WALKER LUKENS, CYN, AIDAN KNIGHT 18+
4/22 GET CRYPHY w/ PLAIN OLE BILL, JIMMY 2 TIMES, LAST WORD, DJ FUNDO 18+
4/23 BLEACHED w/ NO PARENTS, ROYAL BRAT 18+
4/24 POLKADOT MAYHEM SWEET! '16 SERIES FT. w/ ALLY MATTSON, HYDRAH, DEATHDANCE, BOTZY 18+
4/25 FRANKIE COSMOS w/ ESKIMEAUX, YOWLER 18+
4/26 FAT WHITE FAMILY and DILLY DALLY 18+
4/27 SUN CLUB 18+
4/28 UMPHREY'S MCGEE AFTERPARTY ft. PHO 18+
4/29 COASTS w/ KNOX HAMILTON, SYMMETRY 18+

UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



FRIDAY, APRIL 1
CHAIRLIFT
w/ STARCHILD & THE NEW ROMANTIC
at the FINE LINE
\$15/\$30 RESERVED BALCONY/8PM/18+



FRIDAY, APRIL 1
RUN RIVER NORTH
w/ THE LIGHTHOUSE & THE WHALER
at the TRIPLE ROCK
\$12/\$15/8PM/18+



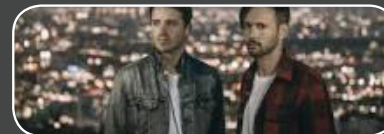
SATURDAY, APRIL 2
Kaleidoscope Tour
A GREAT BIG WORLD
w/ GENEVIEVE
at FINE LINE
\$20/7PM/18+



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
DMA'S
w/ TALL, TALL MOUNTAIN,
CARBON HANDSHAKE
at the TRIPLE ROCK
\$10/8PM/18+



FRIDAY, APRIL 8
GEOGRAPHER
w/ THE CROOKES
at the TRIPLE ROCK
\$12/\$15/8PM/18+



SUNDAY, APRIL 10
Journeys present
ATLAS GENIUS
w/ SKYLAR GREY, SECRET WEAPONS
at the FINE LINE
\$18/7PM/18+



SUNDAY, APRIL 10
AUTOLUX
w/ EUREKA THE BUTCHER
at the TRIPLE ROCK
\$15/7:30PM/18+



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13
TONY VISCONTI + WOODY WOODMANSEY'S HOLY HOLY: CELEBRATING DAVID BOWIE
w/ JESSICA LEE MORGAN,
TRANSMISSION'S DJ JAKE RUDH
at the FINE LINE
\$30/\$50 RESERVED BALCONY/7PM/18+



FRIDAY, APRIL 15
JULIEN BAKER
w/ PHOEBE BRIDGERS
at the TRIPLE ROCK
\$12/\$15/8PM/18+



SATURDAY, APRIL 16
WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE
w/ DANNY SCHMIDT & CARRIE ELKIN
at the STATE THEATRE
\$27.50 - \$32.50/7PM/ALL AGES

4/23 THE SUBWAYS w/ PINS at the Triple Rock
4/24 JEN KIRKMAN "I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING AND OTHER LIES....." at the Cedar
5/02 WILD NOTHING w/ WHITNEY at the Triple Rock
5/07 LITTLE GREEN CARS and JOHN MARK NELSON at the Cedar
5/10 CATE LE BON at the Cedar
5/12 ELEPHANT REVIVAL w/ DEAD HORSES at the Cedar
5/13 NADA SURF w/ GOOD OLD WAR (ACOUSTIC) at the Fine Line
5/21 SAVAGES w/ HEAD WOUND CITY at the Fine Line
5/22 CHELSEA WOLFE w/ A DEAD FOREST INDEX at the Triple Rock
6/7 BRETT DENNEN w/ FIREKID at the Fine Line

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2016

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VARSITY THEATER
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<http://music.3celts.com/tartan-rocks>

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Minnesota Tartan Week

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LITTLE RIVER BAND

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:
The Belfast Cowboys

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016
Doors 7:30pm • Music 8:30pm • 21+
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RUSS WHITE, ROUTINE PATROL

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

know how to party, too. For a complete list of happenings and locations, visit www.minnesotaorchestra.org. Free. 7 p.m. 1500 Fillmore St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-758-0105. —LOREN GREEN

FRIDAY 4/1

PERFORMANCE

THE RIGHT HERE SHOWCASE

ILLUSION THEATER

Becoming a mid-career artist in the Twin Cities has its drawbacks. You are too established to get funding from some sources and not big-time enough to get support from others. So Paul Herwig, an entrepreneurial spirit who is also co-director of Off-Leash Area Theater, has generated the Right Here Showcase to give those oft-neglected artists a place to create and produce new work. This year's lineup includes some of the area's smartest, most provocative art makers over two weekends. The first weekend features work by Melissa Birch and Penelope Freeh. Birch's "Who Moved My Child," a physical theater meditation on childhood's end (or as Birch puts it "Melissa Birch does Mother Goose"), features text by her and choreography by Deborah Jinza Thayer. Freeh's "Helioscope," created in collaboration with London-based dance artist Donna Schoenherr, investigates 19th-century photographer Eadweard Muybridge's iconic imagery of the human body, recorded in a flip book-like series, through dance, sound, and film. The second weekend features work by composer and multimedia artist Craig

Harris and choreographer Megan Mayer. Harris' "Elijah in the Wadi — the Seed of Conflict" explores the life of the Prophet Elijah, integrating original music, immersive visual projection, movement, and acting. Mayer's "This Is Supposed to Be My Fertile Window," by contrast, examines stage fright through the persona of soul singer Dusty Springfield. The work interrogates attempts to control women's bodies, the purpose of anxiety, the hostile state of women's health care, impersonation as performance, and much more. \$10-\$30 suggested donation. 7:30 and 9 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. 528 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-4944. **Through April 10** —LINDA SHAPIRO

SATURDAY 4/2

ART/GALLERY

MACRO MACHINES: NEW WORK BY RUSS WHITE

GAMUT GALLERY

Russ White's large-scale drawings, installations, and photographs celebrate the artist's childhood toys while also being biting political. A toy police car becomes a monster truck, crushing other vehicles in its wake. A wood-panel station wagon morphs into a tank. A red wagon collapses under bags of dirt. The pieces are simultaneously dark and vibrant, humorous and somber, toy-inspired yet grown-up. See them for yourself at this exhibition of new work at Gamut Gallery. The artist, who grew up in the South, currently lives and works as an illustrator in Minneapolis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ►

THE JOY FORMIDABLE

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- 3/31 **GRAYSHOT ALBUM RELEASE SHOW** W/ BREANNE DÜREN 7:30PM
- 4/01 **AMERICAN SCARECROWS** W/ BEN LUBECK (OF FAREWELL MILWAUKEE), JIM PULLMAN BAND 8PM
- 4/02 **TUNES 'N TOONS BRUNCH** W/ BARELY BROTHERS RECORDS DJS 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/AA)
- 4/02 **GREEN RIVER ORDINANCE** W/ LUKE WADE 8PM
- 4/03 **JAZZ BRUNCH** FT. JAMES BUCKLEY, MIKE LEWIS, MIGUEL HURTADO 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/AA)
- 4/03 **'BEATS, RHYMES & LIFE: THE TRAVELS OF A TRIBE CALLED QUEST'**
MOVIE SCREENING W/ A SPECIAL DJ SET BY MIKE 2600 7PM (NO COVER)
- 4/05 **MILK & BONE** W/ WAREHOUSE EYES, BAE TIGRE 7:30PM
- 4/06 **HAR MAR SUPERSTAR** W/ INVISIBLE BOY, CHERRY COLA 7PM
- 4/07 **TACOCAT** W/ ROYAL BRAT, LISA PRANK 7:30PM
- 4/08 **AN EVENING WITH SLOAN** ONE CHORD TO ANOTHER 20th ANNIVERSARY TOUR 8PM
- 4/10 **OUTLAW BRUNCH** FT. BOURBON COUNTY 10AM-3PM (NO COVER/AA)
- 4/12 **MARSHALL CRENSHAW** AND **THE BOTTLE ROCKETS** 7PM
- 4/13 **A TRIBUTE TO HANK WILLIAMS** FT. CURTISS A & FRIENDS 7PM
- 4/14 **A LOCAL TRIBUTE TO HARRY NILSSON** FT. DREAM ON NILSSON
W/ BATTLERAT, M.T. FOYER, MRDR 7:30PM
- 4/15 **CHRIS HAWKEY** W/ BAR CHORDS 8PM
- 4/16 **OBSCURA DAY 2016: A CURIOUS BRUNCH** IN THE CLOWN LOUNGE 11AM (RSVP)
- 4/16 **NORA JANE STRUTHERS & THE PARTY LINE** W/ THE SLAMMING DOORS 8PM
- 4/19 **THE THERMALS** W/ SUMMER CANNIBALS, CATBATH 7:30PM
- 4/20 **THE HOOD INTERNET** W/ SHOWYOUSUCK, LASERS AND FAST AND SHIT 9PM
- 4/21 **MINNEPSYCH FEST** FT. FLAVOR CRYSTALS, THE CULT OF LIP 7PM
- 4/22 **XTC: AN ALL STAR TRIBUTE** SENSES WORKING OVERTIME IV 8PM

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HUNTER HAYES

with Special Guest Ryan Lafferty

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"SEE IT FOR THE MAGNIFICENT TOM HIDDLESTON, WHO HONORS HANK WILLIAMS' GREATNESS."
-Stephanie Zacharek, TIME

I SAW THE LIGHT

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Directed by Lou Bellamy

★★★★★
— The Guardian

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—New York Times

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A-LIST



Get on your bike and ride this April (and beyond)

CLARK PATRICK

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

There will be an opening reception from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 2; artist's talk at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 17; and a closing-night party from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 23 featuring a performance Ghost Army (\$10 entry). 717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4327. **Through April 23 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

BEER

FIRKIN FEST

THE HAPPY GNOME

Once again, the Happy Gnome is hosting its annual epic beer party, Firkin Fest. On Saturday, a variety of brewmakers — including Steel Toe, Insight, Dangerous Man, Lagunitas, Ballast Point, Alpine, and Founders — will arrive at the St. Paul bar and restaurant to share one-of-a-kind selections. There will be over 70 varieties to sample from throughout the day. Vote for your favorite, as the most popular brew will take home the Golden Firkin People's Choice Award. Four expert judges will be bestowing awards on their favorite beers as well. In addition to sampling, beer enthusiasts and their designated drivers will be granted unlimited bottled water and a food item from the menu. Visit eventbrite.com for tickets. 21+. \$60; \$10 designated driver. Noon to 4 p.m. 498 Selby Ave., St. Paul; 651-287-2018. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

ART/GALLERY

SOMEWHERE (ELSE)

ROSALUX GALLERY

Photographer Priscilla Briggs continues her investigation into contemporary Chinese culture with her new, large-

scale color prints of photo-studio sets created solely for wedding photos. The juxtaposition of the fantastically staged and dire reality clash, at times, in interesting ways. And our perceptions as Westerners add layers of judgment, meaning, and justification that intensify the power of Briggs' documentary-like pictures. In this exhibition, Briggs' work is paired with paintings and sculpture by Shannon Estlund, whose abstracted imagery of liminal places — alleys, country roads, suburban backyards at night — is at once haunting and familiar. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 2. 1400 Van Buren St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-747-3942. **Through April 25 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

BIKES

30 DAYS OF BIKING: MSP KICKOFF RIDE 2016

GOLD MEDAL PARK

This month marks the return of 30 Days of Biking. The international event, which began and is organized locally, encourages people to bike every day for the month of April. That might mean commuting to work, biking to dinner, or just rolling around the block a few times each morning. During the next 30 days, participants will be invited to join in on rides and happenings as well. This Saturday's kick-off ride is welcome to all skill levels. Folks will meet at Gold Medal Park for photos, freebies, and friendliness. From there riders, led by Mario Macaruso, will take a slow roll through town. To sign up and check out other events, visit 30daysofbiking.com. Every two pledges means a dollar is donated to World Bicycle Relief.

Free. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 900 S. Second St., Minneapolis; 612-339-4711. **Through April** —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SUNDAY 4/3

FASHION

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR LAUNCH PARTY

JUNE

In anticipation of this year's Kentucky Derby, Minnesota hat-maker Anna Lee and illustrator Allegra Lockstadt are launching A Horse of a Different Color



MICHAEL TODD

BOOK

PEGGY ORENSTEIN

MAGERS & QUINN

Teenage and young-adult sexuality are taboo topics for polite Minnesotans, but Peggy Orenstein tackles them head-on with her new book, *Girls & Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape*, which she will discuss at Magers & Quinn on Sunday evening. The Minneapolis-born author of New York Times bestseller *Cinderella Ate My Daughter* interviewed nearly 100 subjects between the ages of 15 and 20 years old while researching "hook-up culture" in the U.S. and its impact on youth. Among her findings are that sex and intimacy are no longer intertwined in the minds of young people — and, for girls and women, neither is pleasure. Generational shifts in attitudes toward sex (especially anal and oral), the use of porn as a self-teaching tool, the myth of the "perfect slut," campus rape culture, and the unequal value placed on his versus her orgasms are among the book's focal points. Orenstein presents a convincing case that girls would make more positive choices about, and experience more satisfaction with, their sexuality if they had honest information and felt empowered to speak up about their wants and needs. Free. 5 p.m. 3038 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-822-4611. —ERICA RIVERA

Triple Crown Collaboration, a collection featuring 12 Kentucky Derby hats and 12 illustrations. Using inspiration from past winners of the Triple Crown (horses that win the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, and the Belmont Stakes within the same year), Lee and Lockstadt have created corresponding hats and drawings, nodding to the beauty of the horses as well as the history of hat culture surrounding the Kentucky Derby. The fun starts this Sunday with a reception at June, and a Derby race viewing party is scheduled for May 7 at Black and White Studio. Free. Noon to 4 p.m. 3406 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-354-3970. —SHEILA REGAN

MONDAY 4/4

FILM

LET THE WRITER PREVAIL: THE FILMS OF CHARLIE KAUFMAN

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Anyone who complains that movies have become too formulaic should spend some time exploring the idiosyncratic works of writer/director/producer Charlie Kaufman at Trylon microcinema's Let the Writer Prevail. *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004) begins the series with Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet as former lovers tempted to have all memories of their relationship erased. Adding metafiction to the cerebral mix, *Adaptation* (2002) features Nicholas Cage as a Kaufman surrogate (and his fictional twin brother) whose struggle to adapt a nonfiction book involving orchid poaching becomes a self-referential study in artistic obsession. Further fracturing personae, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (2002) blends reality and fantasy as Sam Rockwell portrays enigmatic game show host Chuck Barris, who infamously claimed to have lived a double life as a CIA hit man. Rational existence is eroded on an even grander scale in *Synecdoche, New York* (2008), wherein Kaufman (making his directorial debut) has a distraught theater director (Philip Seymour Hoffman) replicate the outside world so exactly that any distinction between the two is rendered meaningless. And to close the series, the ultimate head trip *Being John Malkovich* (1999) has John Cusack's puppeteer offering an outlet for living out desires by quite literally entering the mind of the renowned title figure. \$8. 7 and 9:15 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays (9:30 p.m. April 25-26). 3258 Minnehaha Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-424-5468. **Through May 3** —BRAD RICHASON

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HEARTS OF DARKNESS

Embrace of the Serpent blurs the line between reality and reverie



There's always violence just beneath the placid surface.

PHOTO BY ANDRES CÓRDOBA / COURTESY OF OSCILLOSCOPE LABORATORIES

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

White dudes in boats are rarely a promising sight for natives who inhabit the land. *Embrace of the Serpent* takes this truism to its surreal extreme. Ciro Guerra's based-on-true-events period piece follows two different treks down the Amazon in the early- and mid-20th century, both ostensibly in the name of science. Their true aims are in line with most such visits throughout history, whether recent or ancient: to exploit a rare natural resource for their own purposes.

In the first expedition, a deathly ill explorer named Theodor Koch-Grünberg claims knowledge of a tribe that's thought to be extinct; the second concerns biologist Richard Evans Schultes' search for a plant Koch-Grünberg wrote about 30 years earlier. Both men are guided along by Karamakate, a ruminative shaman whose suspicion of Schultes is more than war-

ranted by his experience with the earlier visitor — as well as the fact that he believes himself to be the last remaining member of the tribe in question.

Guerra jumps back and forth between the two timelines, each informing our understanding of the other and shifting our loyalties to and fro. Subtle and not-so-subtle changes in the flora and fauna mark the passage of time and the pillaging of natural resources. What's known but not openly admitted is that neither man's search for yakruna, a mystical plant said to contain curative properties, is being carried out with the noblest of intentions.

When asked about yakruna by Schultes, Karamakate balks — he knows that it brings out the worst in natives and outsiders alike. This is *Embrace of the Serpent*'s one plant to rule them all, a supposed panacea that many seek but few understand. This land has already been torn apart by civil war and avaricious rubber barons; why would Kara-

makate help bring about its end? Now in the twilight of his life, he asks little more than to live out the rest of his days without seeing his home further eroded.

Meanwhile, Koch-Grünberg's illness is kept at bay by another plant, this one administered in a most visual way: through a straw inserted into the nose of the afflicted. When the would-be doctor blows on the other end, a quick puff of medicinal dust explodes into the air and jolts the patient into temporary lucidity. Karamakate's treatment comes with conditions: no meat or fish before the rains begin; no cutting any tree from its root; no intercourse until the moon changes phases. These terms are non-negotiable, which isn't to say they're honored.

But it is the yakruna that brings about *Embrace of the Serpent*'s most visually arresting sequence, a hallucinatory vision at film's end that I couldn't spoil if I tried. Guerra's film is a trip unto itself, beautiful even when it's harsh — which is often.

EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT

directed by Ciro Guerra
opens Friday, Uptown Theatre

Cutaways to the stillness of the river, water snakes gliding through its quiet waves, and jaguars silently hunting in the brush are all moody scene-setters, as well as reminders that there's always violence just beneath the placid surface. Guerra and cinematographer David Gallego capture the primal and cosmic visuals alike in stark black-and-white photography, lending an almost timeless quality to the increasingly dreamlike journeys.

When all this is over, you might not be able to put what you've just seen into words or even say definitively where physical reality ends and drug-induced reverie begins. But you'll feel like you've just seen something true, like a dust that settles on the ground and changes everything it touches. **C**

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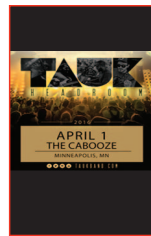


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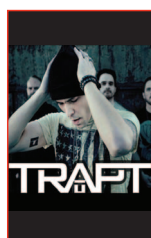


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THE ODD COUPLE

New Epic Theater presents two works that complement each other in unexpected ways



PATRICK KENNEDY

BY JAY GABLER

“They’re very different, superficially,” says Joseph Stodola of Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus* and Larry Kramer’s *The Normal Heart*, “but I kept thinking about them, and realized that I liked them for the same reasons. They were talking about some of the same things.”

Stodola is directing simultaneous productions of the two works, presented in repertory by his company New Epic Theater. Now through April 16 the plays are being staged on alternating evenings at the Lab Theater, and they’re sharing the same cast.

“Let’s just say we’re filled to capacity,” says actor Adam Qualls. “You look at one play and think, ‘Oh, it’s not that many lines.’ But when you’re doing both, you’re like, ‘Oh, shit — that’s a lot of lines.’”

Staging both pieces at once is an epic undertaking — in keeping with the name and the mission of New Epic Theater, which officially launched last year. “It feels like we’re adding to the local theater ecology, not just beating the same drum,” says Stodola. “We’re definitely interested in a kind of work that is really politically engaged, that isn’t afraid to say what it thinks.”

Hence the election-year timing of this double feature. The Bard’s tragedy centers on a Roman general whose skills are better suited to backroom political battles than to winning hearts; Kramer’s autobiographical

CORIOLANUS/THE NORMAL HEART

New Epic Theater at the Lab Theater
700 N. First St., Minneapolis
Through April 16; 612-333-7977

play depicts a 1980s activist whose abrasive personality complicates his efforts to raise awareness of the AIDS epidemic.


Actor Michael Wieser, who plays the activist Ned and *Coriolanus*’ foil Aufidius, hears resonance with the animalistic language of this year’s presidential campaigns, as well as with the fact that the race has been upended by populist candidates. In both *Coriolanus* and *The Normal Heart*, “you have a rising up of people who want a voice, who are seeking representation,” observes Wieser.

“[Both plays] have super-unlikable protagonists who are deeply flawed human beings,” notes Stodola. “That allows us to dig into deeper themes, without proclaiming characters heroes and villains.”

The first three New Epic productions, all presented last year, included Tennessee Williams’ unproduced screenplay *One Arm*, about a boxer who turns to hustling after losing an arm in an accident; an edgy take on Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; and a version of John Patrick Shanley’s *Doubt* that incorporated interpretive movement.

“I’m tired of theater that pats you on the head and sends you away,” says Stodola. “It’s a nice escape — and there’s a place for that — but it’s not what I’m interested in.”

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CHANGE OF 'HEARTS'

With new album *7 Hearts*, celebrated local punks Kitten Forever ditch their party sound and dig deep

BY RAGHAV MEHTA

Kitten Forever concerts are exercises in controlled chaos.

The shows are more like full-fledged blowouts as opposed to casual, flavor-of-the-weekend events. Audience members join them on stage to shout-sing choruses. Bandmates Corrie Harrigan, Liz Elton, and Laura Larson regularly alternate instruments and occasionally wander into the crowd mid-song. Oh, and there are balloons, too. So many balloons.

After toiling away in rock clubs, stuffed basements, garages, and a handful of backyards for the better part of a decade, the incendiary and guitar-less Minneapolis art-punk trio has achieved cult-hero status in the punk community. They're fixtures, DIY vanguards — rebel girls with or without a cause, depending on the song.

"I think we've really grown up alongside our audience and our peers and I've always felt endlessly supported," Harrigan says. "We try to engage with our fans as if they're our friends because they usually are."

The communal vibe Kitten Forever cultivated is just one of a plethora of traits that make them so endearing, but it is certainly a defining one. The band's devoted following can expect a matured, darker, and more ambitious sound on Kitten Forever's new album, *7 Hearts*, which will be celebrated Saturday at Triple Rock, but more on that later.

In many ways, Kitten Forever's fanbase is a unique extension of the group itself, and it's one that isn't limited to living rooms in Uptown or dive bars in Northeast. The group has established a modest following outside of the Twin Cities via tours that are dotted with seemingly random stops, including Redding, California's Booty Ballroom and Minot, North Dakota's Duff Mountain.

"Booking tours is actually really fun for us because we have this road map of friends we get to visit," Harrigan explains. "We regularly go to this place in Redding, California, because we met this girl on our first West Coast tour who was like, 'I want you to come play in my backyard,' and now we go back there every year."



Kitten Forever got ambitious on new LP *7 Hearts*

COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

The band's following transcends their underground social circle. In 2014, PBS released a mini-documentary on the group, *Entertainment Weekly* just teased their new LP, and last year they embarked on a nationwide tour with Minneapolis grunge-punk icons Babes in Toyland, whom they opened for at First Avenue in January. Babes in Toyland had been distant admirers of Kitten Forever for years, ever since Babes drummer Lori Barbero heard a Kitten Forever song on the University of Minnesota's

KITTEN FOREVER

will celebrate the release of *7 Hearts* beginning 9 p.m. Saturday at Triple Rock.

radio station Radio K. Barbero was visiting from her home in Austin, Texas, at the time and immediately picked up one of the band's 7-inches.

"I love everything about them. No breaks between songs, no stopping, they're just so fun," Barbero says. "I also love that they're

great friends. I sometimes think that's more important than having similar musical styles, because your musical sensibilities can change quickly over time."

Babes frontwoman Kat Bjelland fondly recalls Barbero introducing her to the band.

"The first time I saw them they freaked me the fuck out because they were so good, so beautiful. And then I would always watch their sets on tour because it would get me revved up and shaking my ass," Bjelland laughs. "One time I tried to help them carry their equipment but they wouldn't let me. They're just that DIY."

It was, of course, a dream realized to hit the road with Babes, but Kitten Forever stress how far removed the tour was from their standard zero-frills approach.

"It was a unique experience touring with an actual road crew and showing up for sound check," Elton explains. "And then we came back and everyone was like, 'Was it great? Was it a dream come true?' And I was just, like, 'Yup — I don't know what else to tell you.'"

As lazy as the comparison may seem, there's no denying Babes in Toyland's influence on the Kitten Forever aesthetic and approach. What's just as striking is Kitten Forever's influence on Twin Cities music. They sit at the center of a community that has, since their rise, witnessed an influx of fellow female-led local rock groups like the Bombshells and 2015 *Picked To Click* runner-up Bruise Violet, to name just a couple.

For all their stagecraft and swagger, Kitten Forever are in something of a transition period. If their last release, 2013's *Pressure*, was a convivial party-punk album, *7 Hearts* is the inevitable hangover. Kitten Forever are a maelstrom of anthemic angst, and on *7 Hearts* they harness all that raw energy into something much more realized and mature than on previous releases. There's a sarcastically dark underpinning to the songwriting, too.

From the furiously catty "Nightmare" to the psychological romp that is "Brainstorm," the album is fraught with all kinds of personal turmoil and knee-jerk nihilism. On "Temple" the group sings, "Trust no one / Eat your tears / Swallow your pride / Kill your fear," which actually makes for



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a pretty decent personal mantra. The band says that shift in tone is no accident.

“Let’s see what our comfort levels are not only individually playing other instruments, but also writing songs,” Larson says of the approach to the new LP. “We also had a tough year on a personal level, and I think that just comes across naturally as far as how we write songs.”

There’s no absence of urgency on *7 Hearts*, but there’s noticeable restraint. That’s not to say it isn’t any fun — it’s a more serious record from a band that refuses to take itself too seriously.

“We’ve been playing the part of the party band for the last 10 years,” she adds “And now we’re ready to dig in and see what we can really do.” **CP**

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IGGY POP

NORTHROP AUDITORIUM, MONDAY 4.4

At 68, Godfather of Punk Iggy Pop is still sinewy in body, mind, spirit, and especially music, having just launched a new album, *Post Pop Depression*, and tour. The album, which Iggy avers will be his last, was recorded on the sly, a collaboration with Josh Homme of Queens of the Stone Age. On it, the erstwhile James Osterberg essentially takes stock of his current state of Iggy-ness — not revisiting the Stooges’ primal punk, but rather his post-Stooges Berlin residency with David Bowie. In fact, all the songs on the current tour reportedly are drawn from that era and the new disc, where Iggy’s feral croon often suggests he’s channeling Bowie. *Depression* skirts that slippery slope, but it is generally ruminative and doused with melancholy. And it’s not without one last fuck-off rant as the band rages on “Paraguay,” the finale of the album and maybe of Iggy’s unparalleled career. The touring band includes Homme, plus other members of QOTSA, Arctic Monkeys, and Chavez. Noveller opens. \$59-\$105. 8 p.m. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-624-2345. —**RICK MASON**

LE1F

7TH ST. ENTRY, THURSDAY 3.31

New York City’s Lelf spent years as a hot producer in the NYC avant-rap scene, producing mainly for Das Racist before putting together his masterful, subversive 2015 LP *Riot Boi*. With one-ups from Dev “Blood Orange” Hynes, Junglepusy, and Evian Christ, *Riot Boi* became a statement of the grime-filled Manhattan underground and remains one of last year’s most enduring listens. Oscillating between sublime reprieves and aggressive breakdowns, songs like “Swirl” and opener “Rage” show Lelf’s full breadth as a performer. It’s nearly irresponsible to put such an explosive artist in a room as crowded as the Entry. Buzzy locals Ness Nite and Slam Dunkapher will be on opening duty. 18+. \$20. 8 p.m. 701

First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388; 612-338-8388. —**JERARD FAGERBERG**

QUILT

7TH ST. ENTRY, FRIDAY 4.1

Where over-exhausted bands like Mumford & Sons and the Lumineers give folkie alt-rock a bad name, groups like Quilt pick up that slack, though the quartet would likely cringe at those comparisons. The Boston-based twee group that evokes folkier Beatles songs released their debut album, *Held in Splendor*, in 2014, and followed it up with last month’s *Plaza*. Founding members Anna Fox Rochinski and Shane Butler have shimmering voices that carelessly alternate over psychedelic effects, making Quilt’s music sometimes feel like the soundtrack to Tom Wolfe’s *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*. Rising Iowa City pop-rock group Halfloves

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THU // APRIL 7

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MONDAY, APRIL 4
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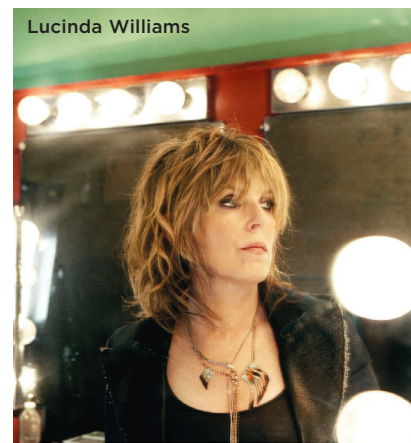
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GARY CLARK JR.

FIRST AVENUE, SATURDAY 4.2

Blues music began as a genre to express the struggles of Black America, and Austin, Texas-based singer/guitarist Gary Clark Jr. — one of the biggest names in contemporary blues — puts a hi-fi spin on African-American pain. For his latest album, *The Story of Sonny Boy Slim*, Clark tackles his new role as a father providing for his family in a “world gone crazy,” as he sings in single “Hold On.” The video for the track features Clark staring hard into the camera while images of civil-rights protests and police brutality flash behind him. It serves as a beautiful portrait of his perspective on race in a post-Black Lives Matter America as his soulful falsetto soars and guitar wildly bites. Stern yet hopeful, the bluesman's face conveys his demand for America: “Let's not fuck up the world for our children,” as he told music blog the Fader. Carson McHone opens. 18+. *Sold out.* 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-332-1775. —JARED HEMMING

SFJAZZ COLLECTIVE

DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB,
SUNDAY-MONDAY 4.3-4

SFJazz Collective is an all-star ensemble assembled annually to immerse itself in the music of a modern master, creating new, innovative arrangements. Over a dozen years, the group has covered the likes of Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Stevie Wonder, and Chick Corea. This year the band is focusing on Michael Jackson, the King of Pop. “Arranging this music so that it becomes a vehicle for improvisation while maintaining its essence — infectious grooves and melodies — is truly a challenging task,” writes pianist Edward Simon in the liner notes of SFJazz's newly released live recording of Jackson material. But, as always, the band succeeds admirably, shining on dynamic arrangements of MJ classics

like “Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough” and “Thriller.” The current lineup is a virtual who's who of contemporary jazz: saxophonists Miguel Zenón and David Sánchez, trumpeter Sean Jones, trombonist Robin Eubanks, bassist Matt Penman, drummer Obed Calvaire, Warren Wolf on vibes, and Simon on piano. \$25-\$45. 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-5299. —RICK MASON

MOBB DEEP

AMSTERDAM BAR & HALL, TUESDAY 4.5

The first quarter of 1995 was already a high-water mark for mainstream rap. It brought two universally acclaimed solo albums from members of the freshly galvanized Wu-Tang Clan (Ol' Dirty Bastard and Raekwon), a debut by up-and-comer Big L, and a pre-prison confessional from 2Pac. That's a lot of legendary bars for less than half of a year. Not to be forgotten is *The Infamous*, the notoriously bleak gangster rap opus from Queens duo Mobb Deep that cemented their status as cold-blooded vagabonds of rap's East Coast renaissance. While they never quite graduated past the success of that album, and floundered after some verbal sparring with Jay Z, MD rappers Havoc and Prodigy are still widely considered two of hip-hop's most brutally skilled and outspoken, albeit volatile, MCs. Muja Messiah and Slipmats Radio DJs open. 21+. \$20-\$25. 7 p.m. 6 W. Sixth St. St. Paul; 612-285-3112. —RAGHAV MEHTA

LUCINDA WILLIAMS

DAKOTA JAZZ CLUB,
TUESDAY-SATURDAY 4.5-9

Along Interstate 20 are many mileposts in the life of singular singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams, whose traverses stirred memories that inspired her extraordinary new album, *The Ghosts of Highway 20*. The mood is often stark, even harrowing as Williams reflects on tattered shreds of the past. The songs — 14 stretched across two discs — also grapple with mortality and salvation. Death hovers, especially that of her father, poet Miller Williams, whose adapted “Dust” kicks off the album with eloquent ache. Throughout *Ghosts*, Williams' textured drawl is marvelously expressive, sometimes creaky, slurred, little more than a murmur, but full of nuance and sneaky power. Significantly enhancing Williams' adventurous arrangements — a sublime blend of folk, country, blues, rock, jazz — are the deftly entwined electric guitars of Greg Leisz (who also co-produced) and Bill Frisell. The resulting road trip, littered with emotional potholes, crosses decades and Southern gothic landscapes sculpted by literary imagery and rich, poignant music. *Sold out.* 7 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday; 8 p.m. Friday & Saturday. 1010 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-5299. —RICK MASON

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Porn and Politics

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about your ex



Dan Savage

I was honored to speak at JCCSF — Jewish Community Center of San Francisco — last week as a part of their “Uninhibited: About Sex” lecture series. Here are some of the questions I didn’t manage to get to during our conversation.

I had the best sex of my life with my ex. He fucked me hard, had a huge cock, and made me eat his come with a spoon. I loved it. Needless to say, we were incompatible in other ways. My current BF is vanilla. Very. Vanilla. When I masturbate, I think about my ex and can’t help but wish my current guy would make me slurp his come up from a utensil. We are very compatible in other ways. Am I doomed to fantasize about my ex?

You are — unless you open up to your current BF about what’s missing in your sex life and/or get his permission to get your hard-fucking/spoon-feeding needs met elsewhere.

How do you combat homophobic remarks in a culture that condones and promotes homophobic tendencies?

You combat homophobia — and misogyny, its big sister — one terrified middle-schooler at a time. Bearing in mind, of course, that “terrified middle-schooler” is a state of mind, not an age bracket.

Got any advice for a bi girl, formerly submissive, who wants to start dominating men?

Get involved in local kink orgs, if you aren’t already involved; check out local sex-positive events (bawdystorytelling.com is a great place to start); and let people know what you’re looking for. There’s no shortage of submissive guys in the Bay Area, and no shortage of dominant women up for mentoring women who are curious about topping.

What do you do when you can’t make your partner come?

Me? I hand him back his dick and go get myself some ice cream — but you shouldn’t do what I do when you can’t make your partner come. Here’s what you should do: Keep trying, ask your partner what they need, and encourage them, if need be, to “finish themselves off” (without pouting, without laying a guilt trip on them about how

they’ve made you feel inadequate, and without treating them like they’re broken). Cheerfully offer to hold ‘em or play with their tits or eat their ass while they finish themselves off — or, hell, offer to go get ‘em ice cream. Whatever helps!

Porn is so accessible today. How has it affected society?

One positive effect (among many): Porn’s wider accessibility forced us to stop pretending there’s one kind of sex — heterosexual, man-on-top — that absolutely everyone is interested in. Thanks to the Interwebs, we can track what people are actually searching for and how long they’re lingering over it.

One negative effect (among many): The ubiquity of porn coupled with the general lousiness of sex education in the United States and Canada has resulted in porn doing something it isn’t designed to do and consequently does not do well. And that would be, of course, educating young people about sex. If we don’t want porn doing that, and we don’t, we need to create comprehensive sex ed programs that cover everything — hetero sex, queer sex, partnered sex, solo sex, gender identity, consent, kinks, and how to be a thoughtful, informed, and critical consumer of porn.

What is the one thing that concerns you most about the current political climate/election cycle?

Donald Trump getting the Republican nomination. I’m not at all concerned about the potential destruction/implosion of the GOP — those fuckers have it coming — but with the likelihood of political violence. I’m concerned that black and brown people — Mexicans, Muslims, African Americans — will be subjected to more political/social/economic violence than they already are. People will die as a direct result of Trump getting the GOP nomination. This is a terrifying moment.

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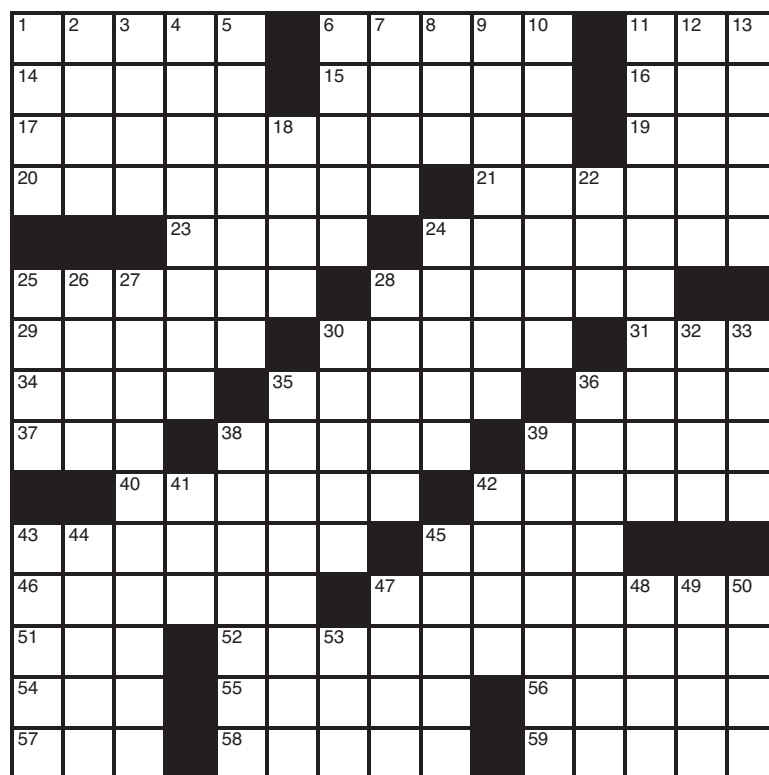
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Across

- Feed homes
- Number of toes a rhino has
- Le Creuset container
- "Milk" star Hirsch
- Ache (for)
- Versatile truck, briefly
- What a hacker says after performing a successful DDOS on Henry David Thoreau?
- With 48-Down, snore
- Poetry analysis
- Flying creature of Kaiju films
- Word said after dropping something
- Touring itinerary
- Wearer of wax wings
- Plans for, as a blind date
- "The Planets" composer
- The White Album girl
- Money on the game
- Look at from afar
- He had a beef with Biggie
- "Right. Right."
- Portlandia clock setting: Abbr.
- Snooty ungulate
- Serves, as wine
- "Gave it my best shot!"
- Like Papa Bear's porridge
- Founding father Adams and Hollywood badass Jackson
- "The Caine Mutiny" author
- Swelling reducer

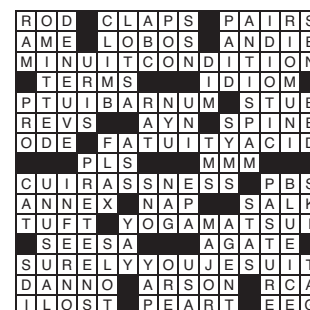
- Stumbling blocks
- Higher power?
- Unbelievable stories you read on the net?
- Campground co.
- Dexterity-testing piece
- Bird on Germany's coat of arms
- Madras mister
- Philbin who holds the record for most time in front of a TV camera
- Online manager

Down

- Pulls a few strings?
- Computer that comes with a Magic Keyboard
- McCann of country
- Language that gave us the words "haggle" and "berserk"
- Escorts to the door
- Thihs clue has too of them
- Shaped with an ax
- Put the Fitbit to use, say
- Very reclusive
- Back
- Dude into floor calisthenics?
- Gauntlet-dropping company?
- Just starting out with
- Little shots of alcohol
- Horned Frogs sch.
- Wood used in furniture
- Silver 5 restaurant
- They have teeth
- Greeting usable

- whenever the TARDIS lands?
- Mouth-watering
- Condo building maintenance, for short
- Kosovo currency
- Kind of tube or pattern
- Time to get primed before the big game?
- Removed
- One who pays the bills
- Cushy seats
- "Hot ____ Time Machine"
- Yacht Rockers with the hit "Africa"
- Washing spots
- One who hardly ever is who he appears to be
- Smartens (up)
- Mani-____
- See 19-Across
- Composer Schiffrin
- Fox News anchor Smith
- Carry with effort

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